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Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
Fortieth session
Bonn, 4–15 June 2014

Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

Views on the issues referred to in decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 40

Submissions from Parties and admitted observer organizations

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirty-eighth session, invited Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 26 March 2014, their views on the issues referred to in decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 40. It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration at SBSTA 40.[1]

2. The secretariat has received 10 such submissions from Parties. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced* in the languages in which they were received and without formal editing.[2]

3. In line with established practice, the six submissions received from non-governmental organizations have been posted on the UNFCCC website.[3]

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[1] FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 48.

* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

[2] Also available at <http://unfccc.int/5901.php>.

[3] <http://unfccc.int/7482.php>.

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* This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Paper no. 1: Brazil

VIEWS OF BRAZIL ON METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES RELATED TO NON-CARBON BENEFITS RESULTING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO IN DECISION 1/CP.16

26/03/2013

The Government of Brazil welcomes the opportunity to submit views on methodological guidance related to non-carbon benefits resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities, referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, in response to paragraph 48 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3.

2. Brazil highlights the importance of incentivizing non-carbon benefits for the long-term sustainability of the implementation of REDD+ activities, as recognized in decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 22. Brazil underlines the close relationship between non-carbon benefits and the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I.

3. It is important to note, however, that "benefits" should not be mistaken for "results". Any approach that would create additional layers of requirements for obtaining results-based payments may hinder the implementation of REDD+ activities. Likewise, an approach that would attribute different values to mitigation results depending on non-carbon benefits should be avoided, as it would change the nature of the incentives provided to developing countries through REDD+, further increasing difficulties to implement REDD+ activities and obtain results-based payments.

4. Furthermore, several types of non-carbon benefits fall outside the scope and mandate of the UNFCCC. Discussions regarding non-carbon benefits should be fully consistent with the respective mandates of each international regime, while preserving the primacy of UNFCCC over REDD+.

5. Brazil is of the view that particular national or local circumstances determine which types of non-carbon benefit arise from the implementation of REDD+ activities in any specific area. According to such particularities and national development priorities, some types of non-carbon benefits may be prioritized over others. Such a diversity of cases and scenarios does not favor the consideration of methodologies at the international or multilateral level for non-carbon benefits. It is instead more appropriate to consider ways to incentivize non-carbon benefits at the

national level, through national benefit-sharing arrangements of the resources obtained from results-based payments.

6. It is important to emphasize that REDD+ countries that receive payments for results, expressed in tonnes of CO2eq, may choose at their discretion to invest these resources in initiatives that contribute to the enhancement of non-carbon benefits. Brazil has been already doing so through the Amazon Fund, for instance, by investing resources obtained through results-based payments in conservation projects and initiatives that foster the livelihoods of indigenous peoples. As a consequence, non-carbon benefits are incentivized at the local level in a manner that is fully consistent with particular national or local circumstances, as well as national development priorities, without the need of further requirements at the international level to implement REDD+ activities.

Paper no. 2: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

SUBMISSION BY

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
as members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
on

Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) in developing countries

Subsidiary Body of Scientific and Methodological Advise (SBSTA) in its thirty-eight session invited Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 26 March 2014, their views on methodological guidance for non-market-based approaches (paragraph 16) and on the issues related to non-carbon benefits (paragraph 24) of the Document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.12.

The joint submission by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, as the members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), address the issues under Paragraphs 16 and 24 as follows:

I. Paragraph 16 (Non-market based approaches)

- ASEAN member states (AMS) recognize that discussion on issues relating to non-market based approaches to enhance mitigation actions including REDD+ are ongoing under the SBSTA agenda on market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention. Furthermore, issues relating to non-market based approaches to support the implementation of REDD+ (decision 1/CP. 16 paragraph 70) have been reflected in decision 9./CP.19 on work programme on results-based finance for REDD+, which recognizes the need to scale up and improve the effectiveness of finance for REDD+ activities, taking into account decision 2/CP. 17 paragraph 66 (market-based approaches) and paragraph 67 (non-market based approaches),

- The COP-19 decision has provided sufficient methodological guidance which countries can begin to apply to non-market based approaches in REDD+ implementation and draw lessons from the experiences. In this regards, AMS are of the views that it is too premature at this stage to further discuss methodological guidance for non-market based approaches,

- In relation to mitigation and adaptation (JMA) approaches for integral and sustainable management of forests as referred to decision 2/CP.17, AMS view that JMA can be understood conceptually but is methodologically and operationally complex. And so, there is a need for clarity on the applicability of JMA at the international setting. AMS suggest that the in session expert meeting at SBSTA-40 should focus on clarifying the methodological issues related to JMA.

II. Paragraph 24 (Non-carbon Benefits/NCBs)

- The importance of non-carbon benefits (NCBs) in the implementation of REDD+ has been widely recognized. However, NCBs vary significantly from country to country, and so, NCBs should be nationally defined,
- AMS view that each country, according to national circumstance, legislation and capacity :
  - Could, as an option, select types of NCBs from a broad range of ecosystem functions and services, to be considered in the REDD+ implementation,
  - Could use existing methodology or develop appropriate methodology for assessing NCBs,
  - Should enhance research cooperation to support the development of methodology for assessing NCBs,
  - Should share knowledge and experiences with other countries, considering that a number of NCBs is specific to sub-national or local circumstances.
- It is important to note that NCBs should not outweigh carbon benefits which is needed to achieve the objectives of mitigation actions through REDD+,
- Results from NCBs assessment should not be used to penalize REDD+ activities, but rather to provide incentives for more performance in REDD+ implementation. This is in line with decision 9/CP.19 on work programme on results-based finance for REDD+, which recognizes the importance of incentivizing non-carbon benefits for the long-term sustainability of REDD+ implementation.
- It is important to note that support, including capacity building, for assessing NCBs is necessary for developing countries to deliver NCBs in REDD+ implementation.

Soumission des vues des pays du Bassin du Congo (Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, Gabon, Guinée Equatoriale, République Centrafricaine, République Démocratique du Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tomé et Principe et Tchad)

PREAMBULE

Cette soumission est présentée par les pays du Bassin du Congo réunis au sein de la Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), conformément à la déclaration des Chefs d'Etat de 1999, dite « Déclaration de Yaoundé », relative à la conservation et à la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique Centrale, soutenue par la signature et la ratification du traité de la COMIFAC.

La COMIFAC regroupe 10 pays : Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, Gabon, Guinée Equatoriale, République Centrafricaine, République Démocratique du Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tomé et Principe et Tchad.

La COMIFAC est un organe créé par les Chefs d'Etat en vue de gérer de manière concertée les forêts du Bassin du Congo à travers une plate forme commune dénommée « Plan de Convergence », qui comprend dix axes stratégiques. Le premier axe met un accent tout particulier sur les Conventions de Rio de Janeiro de 1992 dont la Convention Cadre des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques (CCNUCC).

Le Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo (PFBC), lancé en 2002 lors du Sommet Mondial sur le Développement Durable de Johannesburg, regroupe 34 membres composés des pays du Bassin du Congo, des ONG internationales et des partenaires au développement (bilatéraux et multilatéraux). Pour appuyer les pays de la COMIFAC, plusieurs membres du PFBC contribuent à la mise en œuvre du Plan de Convergence.

Dans le contexte des pays du Bassin du Congo, la déforestation et la dégradation restent modestes, comparées à d'autres régions du monde.

Les pays de la COMIFAC considèrent que les efforts entrepris jusqu'à présent dans les domaines de la Gestion durable des forêts, la Conservation et de la préservation des écosystèmes forestiers sont bénéfiques pour le climat global et revendiquent leur prise en compte dans le futur régime climatique.

Les pays de la COMIFAC souhaitent également faire référence aux principes-clés énoncés dans leurs soumissions précédentes, à savoir :

- Bénéfices réels pour le climat,
- Responsabilité commune mais différenciée,
- Souveraineté des Etats et Développement Durable,
- Equité,
- Rapport coût efficacité,
- Ressources additionnelles,
- Actions rapides préservant l'intégrité des mécanismes existants.

MANDAT

La dix-neuvième Conférence des Parties (COP - 19) de la Convention Cadre des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques (CCNUCC), a invité les Parties à soumettre au Secrétariat d'ici le 26 mars 2014, leurs avis portant sur certains points à débattre lors des 40ème session des organes subsidiaires de ladite Convention.

Version française originale
26 mars 2014
The English version follows

Soumission des pays membres de la COMIFAC sur les directives méthodologiques des bénéfices non liés au carbone.

1. Introduction

Les pays membres de la COMIFAC reconnaissent les progrès importants réalisés à Varsovie et se félicitent de la mise en place du Cadre de Varsovie sur la REDD+, entendue la réduction des émissions issues de la déforestation et la dégradation des forêts, ainsi que le rôle de la conservation, la gestion durable des forêts et l'amélioration des stocks de carbone forestier dans les pays en développement, au terme de sept (7) décisions, notamment les décisions 9/CP.19 à 15/CP.19.

Les pays membres de la COMIFAC saluent également l'invitation faite par l'Organe subsidiaire pour le conseil scientifique et technologique (OSCST/SBSTA) relative à la soumission des vues des parties sur les directives méthodologiques des bénéfices non liés au carbone[1].

Un certain nombre de décisions précédentes relatives aux directives méthodologiques pour les activités de REDD+ peuvent être utilisées pour davantage informer le travail du SBSTA sur les bénéfices non liés aux carbone, y compris les décisions 1/CP.13, 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 12/CP.17, 1/CP.18 et les décisions 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 et 15/CP.19. Celles-ci incluent notamment les décisions relatives aux niveaux de référence, à la prise en compte des causes de la déforestation, aux systèmes nationaux de surveillance et aux systèmes de communication d'informations sur la manière dont les garanties et les sauvegardes sont prises en compte et respectées. Les directives méthodologiques applicables dans ces cas sont également pertinentes pour les activités considérées dans le cadre des bénéfices non liés au carbone.

[1] Conformément au paragraphe 48 de la décision FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, lequel invite les parties à soumettre leurs points de vue relatifs au paragraphe 40 de la décision 1/CP.18 concernant les questions de méthodologie relatives aux bénéfices non liés au carbone résultant de la mise en œuvre des activités énoncées au paragraphe 70 de la décision 1/CP.16.

Les pays membres de la COMIFAC ont précédemment présenté à la CCNUCC plusieurs soumissions sur les activités de REDD+ sur lesquelles, ils aimeraient encore attirer l'attention des Parties à la CCNUCC. En particulier, la soumission incluse dans le document FCCC/AWGLCA/2012/MISC.3/Add.2 présentant notre point de vue sur les modalités et les dispositions relatives à la compensation des bénéfices non liés au carbone de REDD+ pour les efforts de conservation et de gestion durable des forêts passés et présents.

Les pays membres de la COMIFAC sont d'avis que la reconnaissance et le développement des directives méthodologiques pour les bénéfices non liés au carbone des activités de REDD+ sont des tâches essentielles pour l'OSCST/SBSTA car elles permettront de continuer à améliorer les principes et les décisions de la REDD+. Les pays membres de la COMIFAC sont également d'avis que le développement des directives méthodologiques pour les avantages non liés au carbone est un élément essentiel de la gestion durable des forêts.

Ils disposent d'une stratégie commune pour le développement et la mise en œuvre des programmes de conservation et de gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers traduite dans leur Plan de convergence. Ils réaffirment par ailleurs, la vision des pays de l'espace COMIFAC sur le rôle des activités de REDD+ dans la promotion du développement socio-économique, la réduction de la pauvreté, les bénéfices liés à la biodiversité, à la résilience des écosystèmes, ainsi que le renforcement des liens avec l'adaptation.

2. Justification des bénéfices non liés au carbone

Les pays membres de la COMIFAC dans le contexte de leur vision, identifient comme pertinents les bénéfices non liés au carbone pour les activités de REDD+. Le tableau ci-dessous présente une liste non exhaustive des bénéfices non liés au carbone dont les communautés locales et les écosystèmes pourraient bénéficier, suite à la mise en œuvre d'activités de REDD+.

Tableau 1 : Bénéfices non liés au carbone par catégorie d'activité

Catégories	Avantages non liés au carbone correspondants
Amélioration de la gouvernance	- Amélioration ou clarification des droits fonciers pour les communautés locales ;

forestière	- Incorporation de la protection, de la conservation et de la gestion durable des forêts dans les politiques nationales de développement - Renforcement de l'institutionnalisation de la protection, de la conservation et de la gestion durable des forêts en appui à la mise en œuvre des politiques nationales de développement ; - Répartition transparente et équitable des bénéfices liés au carbone ; - Mise en application des garanties ou des mesures de sauvegarde REDD+ et respect des connaissances et des droits des populations s autochtones.
Conservation des services éco systémiques	- Préservation du rôle de régulation des flots et des ressources en eau des forêts (limitation de l'impact des inondations, préservation de l'humidité, etc.) ; - Protection et valorisation de la biodiversité et des avantages associés (l'écotourisme, la bio-prospection etc.) ; - Réduction de la perte de l'habitat des espèces, induite par la déforestation et l'urbanisation ; - Valorisation du rôle de la protection des terres contre les érosions.
Adaptation aux changements climatiques	- Préservation du rôle de régulation des flots et des ressources en eau des forêts (limitation de l'impact des inondations) ; - Productivité améliorée pour les installations hydroélectriques situées en aval du fait d'une diminution de l'envasement et des effets de la saisonnalité sur les flots et débits des cours d'eau; - Amélioration de la qualité et de la quantité de l'eau ; - Développement de l'agroforesterie ; - Amélioration des moyens et des modes d'existence contribuant à la résilience des populations.
Amélioration des conditions économiques et sociales	- Appui à la création des emplois dans les zones rurales ; - Limitation de l'exode rural et de la pauvreté urbaine induite ; - Amélioration de l'accès aux infrastructures de base (assainissement, éducation, santé), particulièrement

	pour les femmes et les jeunes - Accès et utilisation durable au bois-énergie à usage domestique ; - Amélioration des services fournis par les produits forestiers non ligneux et de leur contribution dans la sécurité alimentaire
Protection des valeurs sociales et culturelles	- Préservation des sites culturels et cultuels ; - Protection de l'identité des populations autochtones.

Les pays de la COMIFAC insistent sur l'existence des avantages mutuels entre les bénéfices non liés au carbone et ceux liés au carbone, et le rôle positif joué par les bénéfices non liés au carbone dans la mise en œuvre durable des activités de la REDD+.

Ils tiennent à noter que les mesures de sauvegarde prévues dans la décision 1/CP.16 (annexe 1, paragraphe 2) intègrent déjà la notion de bénéfices non liés au carbone. Les garanties doivent être *utilisées pour «inciter à protéger et à la conserver les forêts naturelles et les services rendus par leurs écosystèmes, ainsi qu'à renforcer d'autres avantages sociaux et environnementaux»*. Dans ce contexte, la reconnaissance de la diversité des bénéfices non liés au carbone et leur rôle positif sur les activités de la REDD+ devraient être encouragés et soutenus dans le développement et la mise en œuvre des activités de la REDD+.

Les pays membres de la COMIFAC insistent sur le fait que la quantification et le soutien des avantages non liés au carbone est d'une importance cruciale surtout lorsque le coût de la mise en œuvre durable des activités REDD+, *qui intègre également le respect des sauvegardes et garanties,* dépasse le prix du carbone.

3. Intégration des avantages non liés au carbone de la REDD+ dans le cadre de Varsovie

Les pays de la COMIFAC sont conscients que la pleine reconnaissance et l'appui des bénéfices non liés au carbone de REDD+ peuvent nécessiter un travail supplémentaire pour établir des modalités pertinentes de mesure, de notification et de vérification (MRV - décision 14/CP.19).

Les pays de la COMIFAC soutiennent également que les lignes directrices relatives aux soumissions sur les niveaux d'émission de référence pour les forêts (FREL) et les niveaux de référence des forêts (FRL) (décision 12/CP.17), ainsi que la portée de l'évaluation technique des soumissions sur les FREL/FRL proposés (décision 13/CP.19) devraient intégrer les bénéfices non liés au carbone associés à la mise en œuvre des activités de la REDD+. Pour des raisons de comptabilité, les avantages non liés au carbone devraient être intégrés dans la soumission des FREL/FRL en addition des bénéfices liés au carbone déjà existants dans le cadre des FREL/FRL et être strictement séparés de ces derniers.

La plate forme d'information établie par la décision 9/CP.19 devrait également contenir au moins un résumé des informations relatives aux bénéfices non liés au carbone.

Les pays de la COMIFAC sont d'avis que les bénéfices non liés au carbone doivent être techniquement et financièrement soutenus, en les prenant en compte dans le financement axé sur les résultats (décision 9/CP.19).

Les paiements pour les avantages non liés au carbone qui facilitent la mise en œuvre des activités durables de la REDD+ dans le respect des garanties, tels que visés dans la décision 1/CP.16, doivent être associés au paiement pour la réduction des émissions et la séquestration de carbone.

Les pays membres de la COMIFAC sont d'avis que les pays vulnérables, ayant une capacité technique et scientifique limitée, doivent être soutenus dans l'identification et l'intégration des bénéfices non liés au carbone dans les activités de REDD+, ainsi que pour les activités MRV des bénéfices non liés au carbone. Des mesures incitatives, telles que l'accès facilité au financement, devraient également être étudiées et déployées.

4. Approches pour évaluer les bénéfices non liés au carbone

Evaluer les bénéfices non liés au carbone pourrait certainement se révéler être une tâche plus complexe que l'évaluation de la réduction des émissions. Il existe plusieurs types de bénéfices non liés au carbone qui exigent leurs propres méthodes d'évaluation. Par conséquent, ils ne peuvent pas tous être simplifiés dans une unité mesurable unique comme par exemple « tonne de CO2 équivalent par an ». En outre démontrer que des améliorations socio- économiques et de gouvernance sont la résultante des

activités REDD + peut présenter des défis supplémentaires. Cependant, il existe des moyens simples, disponibles et éprouvés pour répondre à ces questions méthodologiques.

De nombreux pays évaluent déjà les bénéfices non liés au carbone dans le cadre de leurs politiques nationales et de certains accords internationaux, tels que la Convention sur la diversité biologique (CBD), la Convention relative aux peuples indigènes et tribaux (C169) sous l'Organisation internationale du Travail. La mise en œuvre de ces Conventions peut offrir des leçons applicables à, l'évaluation des bénéfices non liés au carbone dans le cadre de la REDD+.

Les Parties à la CBD surveillent les progrès vers les Objectifs d'Aichi, lesquels pourraient fournir des informations importantes pour la REDD+. Bon nombre des objectifs d'Aichi sur biodiversité pourraient être atteints grâce à la mise en œuvre des actions REDD + si celles ci considèrent en priorité les forêts riches en biodiversité. La rationalisation devrait être poursuivie en vue de créer des synergies, réduire les coûts de transaction de mise en œuvre, ainsi qu'établir des normes et des standards internationalement reconnues.

En outre, l'évaluation des bénéfices non liés au carbone ne doit pas être uniforme dans tous les pays ou nécessairement quantitative. Elle peut combiner les indicateurs quantitatifs et qualitatifs, tels que la diversité des espèces, l'extension et la diversité des écosystèmes (mangroves, forêts plantées etc.), l'amélioration du revenu du ménage, la réduction du nombre de conflits fonciers, et les perceptions locales sur les services culturels rendus par les forêts conservées. En outre, certains bénéfices non liés au carbone peuvent être plus pertinents que d'autres dans des contextes différents, et les pays souhaiteront peut-être se concentrer davantage sur ceux qu'ils considèrent le plus important.

Compte tenu de ce qui précède, les pays pourraient être encouragés à inclure dans leurs soumissions à la plateforme d'information, la manière dont les bénéfices non liés au carbone sont atteints et évalués dans leurs contextes nationaux.

5. Approches pour intégrer les bénéfices non liés au carbone dans le financement de REDD + basé sur les résultats

L'intégration des bénéfices non liés au carbone dans le financement REDD+ se justifie pleinement en considération du fait que la décision de Varsovie y relative reconnaît explicitement l'importance des incitations pour les bénéfices non - carbone en vue de garantir la viabilité et la pérennité des activités REDD +.

Cependant, il existe des défis en raison de la diversité des bénéfices non liés au carbone et du manque d'unités de mesure comparables, rendant impossible, par exemple, l'établissement d'un indice de prix uniforme pour les crédits à la négociation sur un marché. Par conséquent, aussi bien les activités REDD+ axées sur le marché que celles soutenues par les fonds doivent intégrer les bénéfices non liés au carbone au sein d'autres unités de mesures financières et non financières, lesquelles devraient être explorées.

Les options suivantes pourraient être envisagées:

i. Une approche de prime (premium approach), comme dans la certification volontaire des marchés, où de plus gros paiements seront offerts aux activités de REDD+ qui offrent des bénéfices non liés au carbone;
ii. Une approche de priorisation en termes d'admissibilité ou une approche de quota, où les activités REDD + qui offrent des bénéfices non liés au carbone sont prioritaires ou admis en priorité, ou un système de quota minimum (par exemple 65 % du financement affecté aux actions qui offrent bénéfices non liés au carbone);
iii. Une approche « Paiements additionnels désagrégés » (Non bundle additional payment), dans laquelle la performance sur bénéfices non liés au carbone est récompensée séparément, soit par le biais des paiements distincts pour la biodiversité ou avantages de l'eau, les réformes de la gouvernance, etc ;
iv. Une approche « Paiements supplémentaires agrégés » (Bundle additional payment), dans laquelle des paiements supplémentaires pour les bénéfices non liés au carbone sont faites dans le cadre d'un "paquet" de résultats qui incluent la réduction des émissions de carbone. Ceci est similaire à la méthode de la prime, mais permettrait de différentes manières d'évaluer et de payer pour les bénéfices non liés au carbone et pas seulement en tant que prime fixe.

Ces différentes approches possibles montrent qu'il est important de prendre en compte le moment le plus opportun pour mettre les ressources financières à disposition, gardant par exemple à l'esprit que pour atteindre des objectifs d'amélioration de la gouvernance, le financement nécessaire doit être mis à disposition au cours de la phase de préparation.

Par ailleurs, les sources potentielles de financement pour les bénéfices non liés au carbone peuvent être provenir des fonds publics, multilatéraux et bilatéraux. Ils peuvent créer des incitations économiques pour encourager les activités de REDD + qui offrent de multiples avantages.

Les pays de la COMIFAC sont entièrement engagés à contribuer à l'exploration de nouvelles approches afin de mieux reconnaître, favoriser et soutenir les bénéfices non liés au carbone des activités de REDD+. Ils sont prêts à s'engager de manière constructive dans le développement des directives méthodologiques. Les pays membres de la COMIFAC attendent avec intérêt les discussions à venir sur cette question dans le cadre de l'OSCST/SBSTA.

[Translation as submitted]

SBSTA

Draft COMIFAC Submission on methodological guidance for non-carbon benefits

26 March 2014

1. Introduction

COMIFAC countries recognize the significant progress made in Warsaw and welcome the establishment of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus by decisions 9/CP.19 to 15/CP.19.

In Warsaw, SBSTA agreed that it is important to take into account non-carbon benefits when implementing the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, and agreed that clarity is needed on the types of non-carbon benefits and associated methodological issues.

They welcome the invitation by SBSTA to Parties to submit their views on the issues referred to in decision 1/CP.18 paragraph 40 (methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits), for compilation and consideration at SBSTA 40. See FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraphs 45-49.

There are a number of decisions related to methodological guidance for REDD-plus activities that can be used to further inform their work on non-carbon benefits, including decisions 1/CP.13, 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 12/CP.17, 1/CP.18 and decisions 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15/CP.19. These include, for example, guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected, reference levels, addressing drivers of deforestation and national monitoring systems.

The COMIFAC countries have prepared several submissions on REDD-plus activities that they wish to draw UNFCCC parties 'attention to. See in particular the document FCCC/AWGLCA/2012/MISC.3/Add 2 for their views on modalities and provisions for the compensation of REDD-plus non-carbon benefits of past and present sustainable forest 'management and conservation efforts.

COMIFAC countries are of the view that recognizing and developing

methodological guidance for non-carbon benefits for REDD-plus activities is a key task for SBSTA, in continuing to enhance the REDD-plus guidelines and decisions.

COMIFAC countries are of the view that the development of methodological guidance for non-carbon benefits is an essential part of sustainably managing forests. COMIFAC countries have a common strategy for the development and implementation of programs for conservation and forest ecosystems 'sustainable management, through the Plan de Convergence of the COMIFAC. Therefore, the COMIFAC countries reaffirm their vision on the role of the REDD-plus activities in the promotion of social and economical development, poverty alleviation, biodiversity benefits, ecosystem resilience and the strengthening of linkages with adaptation.

2. Rationale for non-carbon benefits

In the context of their vision, the COMIFAC countries identify the following non-carbon benefits as relevant to REDD-plus activities. The table below lists non-carbon benefits that local communities and ecosystems could take advantage of by implementing REDD-plus activities.

Table 1: Associated non-carbon benefits relative to category of activities

Categories	Associated non-carbon benefits
Improved forest governance	- Improved or clarified land rights for local communities - Integration of forest protection, conservation and sustainable management policies into national development policies - Strengthening of institutionalisation of forest protection, conservation and sustainable management in support to implementation of national development policies - Transparent and equitable allocation of the carbon benefits - Enforcement of REDD-plus safeguards and respect for knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples
Preserved	- Preservation of forests' water regulation role

ecosystem services	(limitation of impacts of floods, preservation of humidity etc.) - Protection and valorisation of biodiversity and associated benefits (eco-tourism, bio-prospection etc.) - Reduction of species loss of habitat induced by deforestation and urbanisation; - Valorisation of the role land protection against erosion
Climate change adaptation	- Preservation of role of water regulation of forests (limitation of impacts of floods) - Improved productivity of downstream hydroelectric installation due to decreased siltation and effects of seasonality on river runoff - Improved water quality and availability (quantity) - Development of agro-forestry - Improved of means and mode of existence leading to build the resilience of people
Improved social and economical conditions	- Sustained (support to the creation) of employment in rural areas - Limitation of rural exodus, and induced urban poverty - Improved access to basic infrastructure (sanitation, education, health), in particular for women and youth - Secured access et sustainable utilization of fuel wood for domestic usage - Improved services provided by non-timber forest resources and their contribution to food security.
Supported social and cultural values	- Preservation of cultural and cultual sites - Protection of indigenous people identities

The COMIFAC countries insist on the existence of mutual benefits between non-carbon and carbon benefits, and the positive role played by the non-carbon benefits in the sustainable implementation of REDD-plus activities.

We also note that the guidance and safeguards as referred to in decision 1/CP.16 (appendix 1, paragraph 2) already integrate non-carbon benefits. The safeguards should be *used to "incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services and to enhance other social and environmental benefits"*. In this context, recognition of the wide range of non-carbon benefits and their positive role on REDD-plus activities should be incentivized and supported in the development and implementation of REDD-plus activities.

COMIFAC countries insist that the quantification and support of non-carbon benefits is of crucial importance when the cost of sustainably implementing REDD+ activities in respect of the safeguards exceeds the price of carbon.

3. Integrating REDD-plus non-carbon benefits in the Warsaw Framework

The COMIFAC countries are fully aware that the full recognition and support of REDD+ non-carbon benefits may require additional work to establish relevant measuring, reporting and verification modalities (decision 14/CP.19).
COMIFAC countries also support that the guidelines for submissions on forest reference emission levels (FREL) and forest reference levels (FRL) (decision 12/CP.17) as well as the scope of the technical assessment of submissions on proposed FREL/FRL (decision 13/CP.19) should integrate the non-carbon benefits associated with the implementation of REDD-plus activities. For accountability purposes, the non-carbon benefits items should be integrated into the submission in addition to the existing carbon benefits items and be within the scope of the technical assessment of the proposed FREL/FRL.

The information hub established by the decision 9/CP.19 should also contain at least a summary of information related to non-carbon benefits.

COMIFAC countries are of the view that non-carbon benefits should be properly incentivized and both technically and financially supported and therefore integrated in consideration of results-based finance (decision 9/CP.19).

Payments for non-carbon benefits that facilitate the implementation of

sustainable REDD-plus activities in the respect of safeguards as referred to in decision 1/CP.16 should be connected to the payment for emission reduction and carbon removal.

COMIFAC is of the view that vulnerable countries, with limited technical and scientific capacity, should be supported in the identification and integration of non-carbon benefits in REDD-plus activities as well as for the activities of measuring, reporting and verification modalities of non-carbon benefits. Incentives, such as facilitated access to funding, should also be investigated and deployed.

4. Modalities to assess non carbon benefits (NCBs)

Assessing NCBs can certainly be a more complex task than assessing carbon emission reductions. There are several different NCBs that require their own assessment methods, and they cannot all be simplified into a single measurable unit such as tones of CO2- equivalent per year. Moreover, demonstrating that socio-economic and governance improvements indeed are caused by REDD+ activities may pose additional challenges. However, there are simple, currently available and tested ways to address these methodological issues.

Many countries already assess NCBs in the context of their domestic policies and other international agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (C169) under the International Labour Organisation. Efforts to implement and report on these other conventions can offer lessons for, and potentially be streamlined with, assessment of NCBs under REDD+. For instance, many of the CBD Aichi Targets on Biodiversity could be pursued through REDD+ actions if the latter prioritize biodiversity rich forests. Streamlining and rationalization would build synergies, reduce transaction costs of implementation, as well as generate internationally accepted standards. The CBD and its Parties are also monitoring progress towards the Aichi Targets, which could provide important information for REDD+.

Furthermore, the assessment of NCBs does not have to be uniform across all countries or necessarily quantitative. It may combine quantitative and qualitative indicators, such as species richness, household income, (reduced) number of land conflicts, and local perceptions on the cultural services performed by the forests conserved. In addition, some NCBs may

be more relevant than others in different contexts, and countries may wish to focus more on those that they consider most important.

Therefore, countries could still be encouraged to include in the information that they provide to the information hub to be set up under the REDD+ financing how NCBs are being pursued and assessed in their particular contexts.

5. How to integrate NCBs in REDD+ results-based finance

With regard to integrating NCBs into REDD+ finance, the Warsaw decision on REDD+ finance explicitly "recognizes the importance of incentivizing non-carbon benefits for the long-term sustainability" of REDD+ activities. However, there are challenges due to the diversity of NCBs and lack of comparable measuring units, making it impossible, for example, to create a uniform price index for trading credits on a market. Therefore, both for market-based and fund-based REDD+ should integrate BCNs into other financial and non-financial measures that need to be further explored.

Some options include the following:

i. A premium approach, as done in voluntary market certification, where there would be larger payments to REDD+ activities that deliver NCBs;
ii. A priority, eligibility or quota approach, where REDD+ activities that deliver NCBs are given priority or special eligibility to finance, possibly under a minimum quota system (e.g. 65% of finance earmarked to actions that deliver NCBs);
iii. Non-bundled additional payments, whereby performance on NCBs is incentivized separately, i.e. through separate payments for biodiversity or water benefits, governance reforms, etc.
iv. Bundled additional payments, i.e. additional payments for NCBs are made as part of a "package" of results that include carbon emission reductions. This is similar to the premium approach, but would allow for different ways of valuing and paying for NCBs -not just as fixed premium.

All these possible options show the importance to take into account the required timing to provide NCBs finance; for example, improved governance is one NCB that needs to be realized early on during the readiness phase.

Furthermore, sources of finance for NCBs could be derived from governments, from public, multilateral and bilateral funds. They can create economic incentives to encourage REDD+ activities that deliver multiple benefits.

The COMIFAC countries are fully engaged to explore new approaches to better recognize, incentivize and support REDD+ non-carbon benefits, and are willing to engage constructively in the development of methodological guidance for REDD-plus non-carbon benefits. COMIFAC looks forward to the future discussion under SBSTA on this issue.

China's Submission on the Methodological Guidance for Activities Relating to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries

In accordance with the SBSTA invitation of submitting views on the methodological guidance for non-market-based approaches related to the implementation of the activities referred to in Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 (FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 40) and views on the issues of non-carbon benefits referred to in Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 40, China would like to provide its views as follows:

A. Views on the methodological guidance for non-market-based approaches

1. In accordance with paragraphs 20 and 21 of Decision 9/CP.19, non-market-based approaches should be further clarified by the Standing Committee on Finance and the Green Climate Fund, and further enhanced by COP decisions, if necessary, for incentivizing the implementation of actions on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+).

2. In general, all established methodological guidance adopted by the COP for the implementation of REDD+ can be applied to the non-market-based approach as long as they are based on existing policies. However, if joint mitigation and adaptation is to be considered as non-market-based approach, then new methodological guidance should be developed to integrate adaptation in the process.

3. Forestry has a dual function in mitigation and adaptation to climate change, which can be maximized by the synergy between mitigation and adaptation and further improved through sustainable management of forests, known as the aim of the implementation of REDD+. Therefore, it is of great scientific value as well as significance to develop a joint approach of mitigation and adaptation for integral and sustainable management of forests.

4. However, when developing a joint mitigation and adaptation approach as the alternative for existing policy approaches for incentivizing the implementation of REDD+, challenges may arise in integrating adaptation to the additional methodological guidance since broad concepts, indicators and uncertainties are involved. Thus, China would like to be engaged in and contribute constructively to related discussions under the SBSTA.

B. Views on non-carbon benefits

1. Moreover, non-carbon benefits are key to effective and sustainable implementation of REDD+, and can serve as indicators for performance assessment of REDD+ to some extent, thus should be addressed in all phases of the implementation. Countries implementing REDD+ should establish and execute related national strategies to enhance non-carbon benefits.

2. It is necessary to clarify on the types of non-carbon benefits in order to further incentivize non-carbon benefits. As a matter of fact, non-carbon benefits in REDD+ encompass a wide range of functions and services in the ecosystem, and mainly include ecological, economic and social benefits. Since it is rather difficult to quantify or price some of these benefits, it is very challenging to include all non-carbon benefits in the methodology or policies. Considering this, it is suggested that specific clarifications on the types of non-carbon benefits should be determined by each country at national level by prioritizing benefits that are more practical for the development of relevant methodological guidance and incentives.

3. It is necessary to clarify the relation between non-carbon benefits and safeguards in REDD+ as they often overlap with each other, and to explore how to develop the methodological guidance on non-carbon benefits with

due consideration of safeguards.

4. Although in some countries/regions, non-carbon benefits are more preponderant than carbon benefits, carbon benefits should still be the major concern in the implementation of REDD+, with the possibility to encourage non-carbon benefits by premiums in the result-based payment or other alternatives.

Paper no. 5: Greece and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States

SUBMISSION BY GREECE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Athens, 26 March 2014

Subject: **Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries**

This submission sets out the views of the EU on methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits (NCBs) resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, as per the invitation contained in paragraph 48 of FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3.

Key messages from the EU:

- The primary objective of REDD+ is to contribute to the ultimate objectives of the Convention as stated in its Article 2. However, REDD+ actions have the potential to also generate NCBs;

- Most of these NCBs are fundamental to the long-term success of REDD+;

- The main incentive for countries to strive for NCBs are the NCBs themselves. Hence, there is no need for dedicated payments or price premiums for NCBs under the UNFCCC;

- Parties choosing to supply information on NCBs might leverage additional public and private investments;

- While strong linkages exist between REDD+ guidance & safeguards and the NCBs following REDD+ action, the guidance and safeguards are an inherent, integral part of REDD+ whereas NCBs are additional positive results thereof;

- The EU encourages Parties to design their national REDD+ strategies or action plans to address and maximize NCBs;

- If deemed appropriate by the country concerned, its efforts to strive for NCBs could receive visibility through its Safeguard Information System and/or the REDD+ information hub.

Description, scope and typology of non-carbon benefits

As many other Parties, the EU believes that in addition to its carbon sequestration and forest carbon conservation objective, REDD+ actions have the potential to also generate NCBs. NCBs are those benefits which contribute to or differ from the carbon conservation or sequestration benefits and which are generated and / or preserved through the implementation of REDD+ action and activities.

Some of these NCBs have a catalysing effect by enhancing carbon sequestration. Moreover, some are essential for the success of REDD+ by ensuring the sustainability of its results.

There are a range of potential NCBs depending on parameters such as types of forest, type of action or activity, bio-physical conditions, socio-economic and cultural circumstances, etc. and the level at which they occur (global, regional, national or local). In order to gain better understanding of this spectrum NCBs may be classified in one or more of the following four categories:

- **Social (including governance)**, such as the protection and improvement of livelihoods, stakeholders' participation, health, education, human rights, gender equality, the improvement of forest governance, land tenure clarification;
- **Environmental**, such as the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, adaptation to climate change, including managing water stress of vulnerable forest stands, diversification of landscape structures, soil fertility, and fire prevention;
- **Economic**, such as the preservation and enhancement of ecosystem services, and the sustained provision of forest resources;
- **Cultural**, including the respect for religious/spiritual practices and the cultural self-identification of local communities as well as NCBs related to human well-being.

Linkages between safeguards, non-carbon benefits and the long-term sustainability of REDD+ results

NCBs play an important role in the long-term success of REDD+. In line with the guidance set out for REDD+ activities[1] they promote its social acceptability and environmental integrity and they support and contribute to the provision of diverse ecosystem services such as the mitigation of GHG emissions and long-term carbon storage. Hence, taking them into account can provide useful help when developing and implementing REDD+ national strategies and action plans. This is in particular the case for NCBs which are the result of the implementation of the safeguards[2]. Two examples will illustrate this point:

- Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (c), the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders (d) & the reduction of the risk of displacement (g): REDD+ action and activities are less likely to have sustainable results if the people on the ground directly affected by these actions/activities cannot benefit from their positive effects or are even negatively impacted by them. This could be the consequence of the lack of consultation and involvement, but also of the displacement of certain economic activities to other areas. The safeguards referred to are intended to tackle these issues, which in turn will

[1] Cf. Decision 1/CP.16 The Cancun Agreements, Appendix I, paragraph 1.
[2] Cf. Decision 1/CP.16 The Cancun Agreements, Appendix I, paragraph 2.

contribute to effective benefit-sharing and thus to the overall improvement of the livelihoods of forest communities.

- Ensuring that the actions are [...] used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services (e): REDD+ actions and activities are less likely to have sustainable mitigation results if they are solely focused on carbon sequestration, regardless of other forest ecosystem services and forest resilience. This would be the case, for instance, when converting natural forests into less resilient monocultures with low biodiversity value. Respecting this safeguard has the potential to generate NCBs from all four categories, some of which in turn also reinforce REDD+ results.

Hence, the safeguards as well as NCBs both aim at and contribute to minimizing the risks and adverse impacts of REDD+ action, thereby contributing to the long-term effectiveness of REDD+ action and the sustainability of its results.

Nevertheless, although strongly interlinked and mutually reinforcing, the REDD+ safeguards must not be confused with NCBs following REDD+ action and/or activities. Safeguards are an inherent, integral part of REDD+ and therefore a requirement that must be fulfilled in order to obtain results-based payments. The achievement of NCBs is an additional positive result of REDD+ action above a point which is often not clearly defined.

Ways and means to promote & incentivize non-carbon benefits

The main incentive for countries to strive for NCBs are the NCBs themselves, as they

- are an additional benefit beyond the carbon benefit(s) aimed at;
- can deliver non-monetary benefits (e.g. biodiversity conservation, poverty eradication);
- contribute to the avoidance of current and future costs (e.g. avoiding soil erosion, watershed protection, adaptation to climate change);
- contribute to the maintenance and/or sustainable development of important sources of income (e.g. timber and timber products);
- can provide an alternative source of income (e.g. non-timber forest products, ecotourism);
- contribute to achieving other (inter)national commitments and goals such as those linked to the UNCBD and the UNCCD;
- are likely to attract increased REDD+ funding (public as well as private) through the improved sustainability of results and the provision of additional benefits;

- are likely to also attract other sources of funding (e.g. green investments, fair-trade or agricultural investments in forest-friendly supply chains).

Hence the EU is of the opinion that there is no need for dedicated payments or price premiums for NCBs under the UNFCCC. Moreover, at international level this would add complexity (conceptually, technically and financially) to the REDD+ mechanism, thereby complicating and thus delaying implementation of REDD+' primary objective and possibly even deviating from it.

The EU does however see merit in (encouraging) discussions on NCBs in fora with relevant mandates such as the CBD, the GCF and the FCPF and is interested to learn from pilot experiences how NCBs can be incentivized best. The EU also welcomes initiatives, frameworks and decisions which encourage NCBs such as Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes.

If deemed appropriate by the country concerned, its efforts to strive for NCBs could receive visibility through its Safeguard Information System and/or the REDD+ information hub.

Paper no. 6: Japan

Views on methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, in response to the invitation in paragraph 24 of "FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.12".

It is recognized that forests have a significant role in emission reduction or removal of greenhouse gasses. In addition, forests also provide multiple benefits including water flow regulation, prevention of landslide, soil erosion and tsunami damage, biodiversity conservation, providing cultural needs and values, public health and recreation etc, and they offer huge benefit to local economy and livelihood in various ways. Non-carbon benefits are diverse, and the expected benefits and importance of them vary depending on the circumstance of each country or each area.

Although securing sustainable non-carbon benefits delivered by forests is important, with consideration of ongoing deforestation and forest degradation, REDD+ negotiations should prioritize issues related to emission reductions and removals in forests first, without excessively complicating the methodologies or delaying the implementation, and make an effort to steadily promote actions to avoid deforestation and forest degradation by implementing early REDD+ actions, including demonstration activities.

It should be noted that UNFCCC already shared the view that REDD+ activities should be conducted taking into account non-carbon benefits delivered by forests or multiple functions of forests. In line with such decision, it is preferable that the issue of non-carbon benefits is adequately addressed in REDD+ activities including safeguards.

It is preferable that REDD+ activities have positive impacts on non-carbon benefits. Those benefits are also effective in sustaining REDD+ activities and ensuring local community participation. Japan considers it important that REDD+ activities are designed to enhance those benefits in line with the national strategy or the action plan, that REDD+ activities ensure transparency of information including through safeguard information system, and that the quality of REDD+ activities are gradually and continuously improved, based on experiences.

In Japan, recognizing the vital importance of those non-carbon multi-functions of the forests, all the forests are classified and zoned based on the expected functions of each forest, and forestry activities are planned and implemented with due consideration given to those functions.

SUBMISSION BY MALAYSIA ON METHODOLOGICAL GUIDANCE FOR ACTIVITIES RELATING TO REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION AND THE ROLE OF CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST CARBON STOCKS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Malaysia welcomes this opportunity to submit its views on methodological guidance for non-market-based approaches and non carbon benefits related to the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70.

I. Non-market based approaches

a. Decision 9/CP.19 para 7, indicates that when providing results-based finance, to apply methodological guidance consistent with decisions 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 12/CP.17 and 9/CP.19,11/CP.19 to 15/CP.19. Malaysia views that the methodological guidance is also relevant for non-market based approach.

b. Joint mitigation and adaptation (JMA) approaches for integral and sustainable management of forests as referred to decision 2/CP.17 could be one of the non-market based approaches but clarify on the methodological issues beyond national application is required.

II. Non Carbon Benefits

a. Non-carbon benefits is important in the implementation of REDD+ has been widely recognized to some extend has been reflected in the Safeguards (Appendix 1 1/CP.16). Hence, non carbon benefits should be defined at national level.

b. REDD+ is a voluntary action and therefore developing country parties could decide what benefits to be included.

c. REDD+ activities are primarily a mitigation action measured in terms of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year (14/CP.19, paragraph 14) and therefore the non carbon benefits should not prevail over the carbon benefits.

d. Non carbon benefits should not be as a pre-requisite for REDD+ activities but to support the REDD+ implementation as per decision 9/CP.19.

e. Developing country parties could decide that the REDD+ implementation could cover either carbon benefits or non carbon benefits as start and progressively towards integrating both as appropriately.

f. Non carbon benefits may include a broad range of ecosystem functions and services, to be considered in the REDD+ implementation.

g. Methodology applied could correspond to the non carbon benefit selected.

Republic of the Philippines

Submission on methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD-Plus) in developing countries

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advise (SBSTA), during its thirty-eighth session, invited Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 26 March 2014, their views on methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits resulting from the implementation of REDD-Plus activities (FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 48). This submission refers to the issues identified in the SBSTA conclusion.

This submission is solidly grounded on the Philippine National REDD-Plus Strategy (PNRPS), which has been developed jointly by government, civil society, non-government organizations, members of indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples, peoples' organizations, and the academe.

Recognizing the Philippines' particular vulnerability to climate change, the country pursues REDD-Plus to facilitate important synergies and mutual reinforcement between mitigation and adaptation.

The Philippines is particularly committed to the sustainable management of forests, and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The Philippines adheres to the recognition, respect and protection of the rights of indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICCS/IPs) contained in its Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (Republic Act No. 8371, 1997) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Recognizing the importance of non-carbon benefits

- The Philippines strongly emphasizes the need to view REDD-Plus in a holistic manner, where forests are valued not only for their capacity to store and sequester carbon dioxide, but also for the myriad other uses and services they currently and could potentially provide, including for adaptation and sustainable development.

- The Philippines supports the widely-held view that REDD-Plus needs to provide social, environmental and governance benefits, broadly known as non-carbon benefits (NCBs), to make carbon benefits possible and sustainable.

- This much is expressed in the PNRPS, which is grounded in the principle of ensuring that mitigation efforts in REDD-Plus, as regards carbon, equally treats yield in terms of co-benefits for biodiversity conservation, community development, and good governance.

- This principle has a firm basis in the ultimate objective expressed in Article 2 of the Convention on the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere," while also enabling "economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

- REDD-Plus must also "take into account the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems" and "be implemented in the context of sustainable development and reducing poverty," as expressed in Paragraph 1(d) and (g), respectively, of Appendix I of Decision 1/CP/16.

- To contribute to this holistic view of REDD-Plus, there is also a need to create synergies between and among efforts under this Convention, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF).

Approaches to methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits

- Because the types, kinds, or categories of NCBs could vary widely from country to country, they should be nationally-defined, and related methodologies and processes should be determined at the country level.

- Areas or categories of NCBs recognized in the Philippines include, but are not limited to:

    a) Improved forest governance, including strengthened security of tenure and land ownership;
    b) Accounted ecosystem services provided by forests, including biodiversity conservation;
    c) Increased forest resilience and synergies with climate change adaptation;
    d) Improved socio-economic benefits, alleviation of poverty, and livelihood improvements, particularly of ICCs/IPs and local communities; and
    e) Preserved and reinforced cultural and spiritual values, sustainable indigenous knowledge systems, customary governance, technologies, skills, and practices on forest and ecosystem management.

- Because the requirements for REDD-Plus implementation are already complex, care must be taken when discussing methodological issues for NCBs to ensure that countries are not overstretched or overburdened with new requirements. Thus, linkages to other approaches, systems, and methodologies should be considered, for example in gathering information about REDD-Plus safeguards and facilitating payments for ecosystem services (PES).

- There is a clear linkage between NCBs and REDD-Plus safeguards. Reporting on NCBs could be partially covered by safeguards reporting mechanisms or safeguards information systems. Reporting on NCBs beyond safeguards reporting requirements should be decided by countries on a voluntary basis.

- Countries should decide where measurement is technically feasible and necessary, also taking into account existing reporting schemes such as the Forest Resource Assessment under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), CBD, UNFF, the Ramsar Convention, and accounting standards such as the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) 2012.

- The links of REDD-Plus to other ecosystems-based approaches must be recognized and explored. In doing so, existing responsive methodologies for identifying (and valuing) ecosystem services should be built upon, rather than replaced, when developing methodologies related to NCBs.

- In monitoring and measuring NCBs, it is possible to look at the relationship between carbon indicators on the one hand, and non-carbon proxy indicators with a direct relationship to carbon benefits on the other.

- The experience and knowledge of ICCs/IPs and local communities in developing and utilizing community participatory monitoring systems for forests, biodiversity, land use and land use changes and traditional knowledge should be integrated in methodologies developed for NCBs, where appropriate. Involvement of local government in all phases of REDD-Plus implementation and monitoring is a good practice which will strengthen NCBs.

- Information-sharing among countries on NCBs is important to help them in developing new, or enhancing current, monitoring, reporting, and accounting schemes.

Non-carbon benefits and REDD-Plus finance

REDD-Plus finance can provide incentives to maximize synergies between carbon and non-carbon benefits. Its allocative efficiency depends on national circumstances and national development priorities. A broad array of market- and non-market based instruments can contribute to achieving NCBs.

REDD-Plus finance must incentivize other key outcomes within the scope of REDD-Plus in the context of NCBs. This is necessary to enable countries to ultimately address underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and thus be able to achieve carbon benefits. The provision of clear non-carbon incentives can also enhance the quality and quantity of carbon benefits.

Tunisia's submission on REDD+ non-carbon benefits

Tunisia is hereby submitting its views in response to the call for submissions made at SBSTA 38 regarding REDD+ non carbon benefits, in particular on methodological issues identified by Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 40, in view of their consideration at the SBSTA 40 meeting to be held in June 2014.

Tunisia is engaged to contribute to an effective implementation of the UNFCCC and therefore to global efforts to fight against climate change, in mobilizing all possible instruments, including REDD+. As a low emitting country but increasingly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change, Tunisia is willing to promote, on a voluntary basis, the essential role that its forests play for both climate change mitigation and adaptation in the context of the current international climate regime, and to prepare for the post-2020 regime.

Aware of the specific characteristics of Mediterranean forest ecosystems, Tunisia is involved in a regional process of dialogue and experiences' sharing on integrated management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Together with its partners in the region, Tunisia has approved on 21 March 2013 the *Tlemcen Ministerial Declaration* (www.iii-med.forestweek.org/sites/default/files/press/tlemcendeclaration21032013_eng.pdf), which recommends to promote goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems, notably in « *adapting and strengthening available financing mechanisms, and through innovative financing mechanisms which can support the implementation of policies and programmes* » that are necessary to ensure a sound management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean region, including the REDD+ mechanism established under the auspices of the UNFCCC.

In a context of a fast growing demographic pace and of high population density in forest ecosystems (100 inhabitants/km^2, which is about twice the national average), and in order to promote forest sustainable management, the Tunisian forest administration pays a particular attention to the multi-functionality of Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Those are in fact carbon sinks which should be maintained, strengthened, and also adapted. They provide goods and services, such as wood, wood energy, cork, feed, food, aromatic and medicinal plants, or entertainment areas, which respond to essential needs of the population and support income generating activities. From this perspective, forest ecosystems contribute significantly to the economic and social development of Tunisia through the improvement of livelihoods and poverty eradication of the forest villagers (who represent from 8% to 10% of Tunisian population and nearly 23% of the rural population, considered as the poorest population of the country[1]).

[1] Etude sur la caractérisation de la population forestière en Tunisie. DGF, FAO et GIZ 2012.

According to the first elements of the forthcoming Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, and looking at the *State of Mediterranean Forests Report 2013* (www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3226e/i3226e.pdf), it is clear that the Mediterranean region is one of the regions that will be the most impacted by climate change. Such adverse impacts include an increase of forest fire risks or extreme and recurring weather events. Despite their vulnerability, Mediterranean forests, especially from the South border of the Mediterranean Sea, are playing a key role for adaptation to climate change. In effect, they contribute notably to the fight against desertification and erosion.

The REDD+ strategic options envisaged by Tunisia in the framework of its sustainable forest ecosystems' management policy show the possibility to generate a number of environmental, social, economic, and governance related benefits. With the view to maximizing and rationalizing support to REDD+ activities towards an integrated approach of the fight against climate change, it seems necessary to support those co-benefits which guarantee the achievement of positive results in terms of mitigation and carbon stock permanence in the long term while creating synergies between mitigation and adaptation measures.

This is particularly the case in the Mediterranean region, in a context of an important demographic pressure on forests (30% of the income of forest villagers is provided by the forest sector through working days and harvesting of several forest products) and an increased vulnerability of forest populations to the adverse impacts of climate change:

(1) Tunisia's strategic REDD+ options take into consideration future adverse impacts of climate change on the country forestry ecosystems, for instance through the development of early warning systems and the adaptation of forestry management practices to increased risks of forest fires, pest infections, extreme weather events, etc.

(2) In addition, Tunisia's strategic REDD+ options target the fight against desertification and soil erosion, the improvement of the overall water lifecycle in a context of increased resource scarcity (less than 500 m^3/inhabitant/year)[2], and the conservation of an important inter and intra-specific genetic diversity (which is indeed necessary for country adaptation capacity in the future). As such, the REDD+ options can limit the negative impacts of climate change on populations, landscapes and infrastructures.

[2] The Strategic Study *Water 2050 in Tunisia*, Ministry of Agriculture, 2012 (Etude Stratégique Eau 2050 en Tunisie, Ministère de l'Agriculture 2012).
Sustainable Management of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and GTZ, 2008 (Gestion Durable des Ressources en Eau, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable et GTZ 2008).

The mitigation potential of Mediterranean forests should not be neglected by the UNFCCC; it should be strengthened instead, including through the REDD+ mechanism. Given their specificities, it is crucial to provide an incentive in the framework of UNFCCC implementation to support co-benefits which can maintain carbon results achieved through REDD+ activities in the long term, in particular those supporting adaptation of forestry ecosystems to climate change.

At this stage of discussions among Parties, Tunisia strongly supports the need for incentive which can valorise non-carbon benefits in the framework of REDD+, and in a consistent manner with the decision the COP recently adopted in Warsaw (paragraph 22 of Decision 9/CP.19), which recognizes the importance of such incentive. Such incentive may take different forms of implementation while taking account of national REDD+ priorities, national circumstances and countries' respective capacities, and it shall be provided through additional, sufficient, predictable and sustainable resources coming from a variety of sources.

In order to provide for an incentive, which is adequate with regard to the carbon and non-carbon results expected in the UNFCCC framework, Parties should agree on a methodological framework to measure and verify non carbon benefits and their role in maintaining carbon benefits. Notably, principles for their assessment together with indicators could be elaborated and used for these purposes. Reference should be made to existing principles and indicators on adaptation already elaborated within the UNFCCC framework or under other international forums or mechanisms, if they are relevant to measure non-carbon benefits in forest ecosystems (for example for the measurement of soil and landscape quality, water resource state, or biodiversity conservation). Such international principles and indicators may be complemented by national indicators, in order to measure accurately non carbon benefits. Measuring non-carbon benefits requires an efficient institutional and organisational framework based on a sound management and effective monitoring of forest ecosystems. In this regard, Tunisia would like to stress that it has been developing decennial forest strategies since the 1990's towards sustainable forest management policies, in a way that is adapted to its national context, by targeting forest ecosystems conservation and reconstitution and promoting at an early stage the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation.

Tunisia's forest administration, in charge of forest management, has proved its strong capacity of measuring and monitoring non-carbon benefits. In effect, Tunisia has carried out two forest and pastoral inventories (for 1995 and 2010) and three Greenhouse Gases inventories (for 1994, 2000, and 2010), enabling the measurement, verification and reporting on REDD+ carbon and non carbon benefits on a transparent and accurate manner.

Tunisia acknowledges the COP19 Decision adopted in Warsaw relating to the work program on result based payments for REDD+, which constitutes an important step towards making REDD+ fully operational. However, a number of uncertainties remain as to how to determine exactly the amount of payments that will be made for the carbon results achieved through REDD+ activities.

As far as the incentive for non carbon benefits may be determined by taking into account modalities for making result-based payments and their levels, it is necessary that UNFCCC Parties further explore what the possible options are to set the incentive at an appropriate level and according to modalities which correspond to the requested needs.

Consequently, Tunisia proposes that Parties submit their views and express their expectations in relation to the way to measure non-carbon benefits and modalities to determine the form and the level of adequate incentives for their support in early September 2014, taking into account progress made at the meeting of SBSTA 40 in June 2014. In addition, in view of preparing a constructive discussion on these methodological issues at the Lima Conference, Tunisia proposes that the UNFCCC Secretariat arranges for a technical workshop on REDD+ non carbon benefits that could take place in the margins of SBSTA 41, where the importance of providing support to non carbon-benefits as a key mean to ensure the permanence of emission reductions and of the carbon stock in the long run under specific circumstances could be demonstrated, especially in Mediterranean forests.

Paper no. 10: United States of America

Submission of the United States of America on "Non-Carbon Benefits"

Paragraph 48 of SBSTA 38, in document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, "invited Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 26 March 2014, their views on the issues referred to in decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 40. It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration at SBSTA 40.

Paragraph 40 of 1/CP.18 "requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at its thirty-eighth session, to initiate work on methodological issues related to non- carbon benefits resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, and to report on this matter to the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth session;

The United States appreciates this opportunity to comment on the question of methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits resulting from the implementation of approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+).

While REDD+ was initiated by the UNFCCC in order to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and preserve forests in developing countries, we know it can deliver a whole host of additional benefits that make programs stronger, longer lasting, and ultimately increase their potential for mitigating the impact of climate change. The guidance and safeguards included in Decision 1/CP16 Appendix 1 help ensure that these additional co-benefits, or "Non-Carbon Benefits (NCBs)," are present in any REDD+ work. The protection and enhancements of the carbon within a forest brings about numerous other environmental benefits, and the social benefits are substantial when proper strategy design improves governance, enhances livelihoods, and supports marginalized groups. The generation of significant social and environmental NCBs through REDD+ activities are also more likely to lead to greater long-term sustainability of the results achieved. For these reasons, we believe NCBs are especially important, and that REDD+ finance should select and prioritize REDD+ actions that generate NCBs.

What is a NCB?

There are many different types of NCBs related to REDD+ that include, among others: cleaner water, protection of plant and animal biodiversity, increased resiliency of ecosystems, increasing the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders such as Indigenous People and other forest-dependent people in decision making, generating employment options, and better forest

governance. In fact, there are so many different co-benefits of REDD+ that it would be nearly impossible to list all the things that could be considered a NCB.

1/CP.16 established the REDD+ Safeguards, and its Appendix 1 also gave guidance that must be applied, including "enhance other social and environmental benefits," "incentivize the conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services," and promote "transparent and effective national forest governance structures." This direction from the REDD+ guidance and safeguards ensures that many different kinds of co-benefits are, and will remain, a key part of REDD+.

National Determination

The relevance of NCBs to each country will vary greatly, especially when we consider the wide range of circumstances of countries and forests concerned. Each Party has different needs, drivers of deforestation, forest types, social issues, political processes, and of course a different REDD+ strategy. Trying to generate and negotiate an exhaustive and all inclusive list of NCBs, without missing one or more of the wide variety of benefits REDD+ generates, would be nearly impossible. Each Party is best placed to identify relevant NCBs associated with REDD+, and integrate and prioritize NCBs in their own nationally appropriate strategy.

Keep the Process Streamlined

Some Parties have suggested that metrics be developed under the UNFCCC to measure, and report on, NCBs. As noted above, generating a complete list of NCBs would be challenging enough. Attempting to define, and negotiate, how to measure and monitor each of these, could set REDD+ implementation back by years. It would also involve the UNFCCC in areas far beyond its objective and mandate. We do note that there are international conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, and national processes, that have the remit to define and measure these issues. Parties can and do draw on these resources when seeking to implement their REDD+ strategies, and where relevant, when reporting through their Safeguards Information Systems.

Incentivizing NCBs

We believe the most effective approach to incentivize the provision of NCBs through REDD+, across the wide spectrum of Parties and national REDD+ strategies is to prioritize REDD+ funding for strategies, actions and approaches which enhance. This incentive is already being applied by a number of financers of REDD+. For example, one of the selection criteria for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Carbon Fund is that the proposed Emission Reduction Program "will generate substantial non-carbon benefits." Similar prioritization is being shown in the voluntary market, where both public and private sector buyers are selecting projects which generate significant non-carbon benefits. The most recent State of the Forest Carbon Markets (Ecosystem Marketplace, 2013) shows nearly 80% of projects were certified to Climate, Community, and Biodiversity (SSB) standards as well as another standard; many of these other systems also include non-carbon benefits within their standards. The same holds true for non-market approaches, where financers are

increasingly seeking assurance that REDD+ support will generate significant social and environmental benefits, leading to greater long-term sustainability of the results.

In sum, we believe that NCBs are critical to the long term success and sustainability of REDD+ efforts; this has been recognized in a number of decisions, including the Cancun safeguards. At the same time, we believe that NCBs are very context specific; they should be identified and enhanced within the context of national strategies or action plans, and the specific national, subnational, and local actions taken to implement REDD+. Attempting to identify an exhaustive list of NCBs, and develop methodologies for measuring and monitoring each one under the UNFCCC, would be counterproductive to REDD+ advancement at this point. Rather, we believe it is more effective to ensure REDD+ financing supports strategies and programs which can deliver significant NCBs as part of their mitigation efforts.